



MALHEUR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



February 2010

Malheur County FSA Office

2925 SW 6th Avenue
Ontario, OR 97914
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E-Mail:
wes.jennings@or.usda.gov

County Committee Members

Fred Eiguren, Chair
Roger Findley, Vice-Chair
Gary Davis, Member
Brian Kameshige, Advisor

Office Staff

Wes Jennings, CED
Jon Mills, FLM
Maria Lopez, FLO
Kyle Pottala, FLO
Denise Bishop, PT
Darlene Brandt, PT
Carla Dillon, PT
Maria Lujan, PT
Lori Yokom, PT

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-up:

Signup for the 2008 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) has started. Please contact the County Office to schedule an **appointment**.

2008 SURE is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2008. SURE provides crop disaster assistance payments to eligible producers on farms that have incurred crop production or crop quality losses. The program takes into consideration crop losses on all crops grown by a producer nationwide. SURE provides assistance in an amount equal to 60 percent of the difference between the SURE farm guarantee and total farm revenue. The farm guarantee is based on the amount of crop insurance and Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on the farm. Total farm revenue takes into account the actual value of production on the farm as well as insurance indemnities and certain farm program payments.

Producers with a farming interest physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Agriculture Secretary must have suffered at least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance. The 10 percent production loss must be caused by a natural disaster. Producers must meet the risk management purchase requirement by either obtaining a policy or plan of insurance, under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or NAP coverage, for all economically significant crops.

For 2008 crops, producers had the opportunity to obtain a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement through a buy-in provision. Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for SURE without a policy or plan of insurance or NAP coverage.

Acres Reporting Reminder:

All producers participating in any USDA programs (DCP, CRP, CREP, NAP, etc.) are required to report and certify their acres by **June 30, 2010**. Failure to make the June 30th deadline may require an on-site measurement service to be performed on the farm at the producer's expense and the producer will be out of compliance for any USDA program benefits.

Due to the requirements of the various programs that FSA administers, your 2010 crop acreage report is very important to your program eligibility especially when abnormal weather occurs (flood, drought, etc.). You, as the owner and /or operator of a farm or ranch need to protect yourself from becoming ineligible because you failed to file an accurate acreage report. Starting in 2010, producers will also need to report all of the land (farmland, cropland, rangeland, etc.) in which they have an interest. A copy of your maps are available upon request, please contact the office.

Farm Loans:

Loan applications are being accepted for farm operating and ownership purposes. Operating loans include annual operating expenses, farm equipment and livestock purchases, and refinancing related debt. Ownership loans include the purchase or enlargement of a farm, or the construction and/or repair of buildings.

FSA provides Direct and Guarantee loan assistance for Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged producers as well. Youth loans are available for 4-H and FFA members' ages 10 through 20 who want to start any income producing enterprise recommended by their leader.

DCP/ACRE Sign-up Underway:

Signup has started for the 2010 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Program (ACRE) for farms with base acres.

Signup will continue until June 1, 2010. The June 1, 2010 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications.

All Program participants are now required to submit form CCC-927 or CCC-928 to the IRS by June 1st, 2010.

County Committee (COC) Election Results:

Congratulations to Gary Davis! Gary was elected to represent producers from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #2 on the Malheur County Committee. Gary was elected to his 1st term on the COC after serving as an Alternate-Member for the last 3 years. FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

Gary Davis, Elected COC Member Scott Cruickshank, Elected 1st Alternate

County Committee Organizational Meeting:

The committee members held their organizational meeting on January 13, 2010 to determine the organization of the COC. The structure of the Malheur COC for the 2010 calendar year will be as follows:

Fred Eiguren, COC Chairman Roger Findley, COC Vice-Chairman
Gary Davis, COC Member Brian Kameshige, COC Advisor

Malheur COC will hold there Regular COC meetings at 1:00 P.M. the second Wednesday of each Month.

Signature Policy:

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

- For a minor, FSA requires the minor' signature and one from an eligible parent. Note, by signing the applicable document, the parent is liable for actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc
- When signing on one's behalf the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. Example - John W. Smith is on the form. The signature may be John W. Smith or J.W. Smith or J. Smith. Or Mary J. Smith may be signed as Mrs. Mary Joe Smith, M.J. Smith, Mary Smith, etc
- FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. Producers are responsible for the successful transmission and receipt of FAXED information.
- Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office
- Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities
- Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the county office
- Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, join ventures, corporations, estates, and trusts shall consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity

For additional clarification on proper signatures contact your local FSA office.

Reservoir Levels as of February 23, 2010:

Owyhee: 29%

207164/715000

Warm Springs: 13%

21926/169639

Beulah: 27%

16230/59900

Bully Creek: 56%

13163/23676

Unity: 38%

9669/25200

Phillips: 55%

40440/73000

Thief Valley: 103%

13666/13307

*According to BOR web-site:
www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/wytea.html

Direct Deposit:

As of Jan 1, 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. For those already signed up, it is important that you notify the county office anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution. If we are not notified timely, future payments may be delayed.

Reasonable Accommodations:

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA County Office staff, and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are necessary.

Appeal Process:

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request or application for USDA services, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, appellants have three choices — (1) an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, (2) an opportunity for mediation and (3) finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

Power of Attorney:

We have a power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the FSA office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at: <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Forms obtained and completed outside the USDA Service Center office must be notarized. Starting in 2009, NRCS and FSA utilize the same power of attorney form. For more information, contact the office.

Controlled Substance:

Any person who is convicted under federal law of planting, producing, cultivating, harvesting, growing, or storing a controlled substance will be ineligible to participate and receive payments under USDA programs. Marijuana, opium poppies, and other drug producing plants are controlled substances.

Customer Statement:

Producers with an USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement. The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans, conservation plan and land unit information.

**Malheur County FSA Office
2925 SW 6th Ave. Suite 3
Ontario, OR 97914**

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Dates to Remember:

March 15, 2010: Deadline for NAP Coverage on spring planted crops (beans, broccoli, camelina, cantaloupe, cauliflower, corn cucumbers, lentils, mustard, oats, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, safflower, sunflower, squash, tomato, watermelon)

May 31, 2010: Office Closed (Memorial Day)

June 1, 2010: **DCP/Acre Deadline and Deadline to submit forms to IRS for AGI compliance.**

June 30, 2010: **Acreage Reporting Deadline**

July 5, 2010: Office Closed (Independence Day)

Within 15 days: Notice of Loss (FSA-576) must be filed within 15 days of loss or when the loss became apparent.

Attention Agricultural group members and leaders: Would you like FSA to come to your meeting and talk about what FSA has to offer to you? If so contact Wes Jennings or Jon Mills at 541-889-9689 extension 2 or by email at wes.jennings@or.usda.gov or jon.mills@or.usda.gov.

Special Accommodations:

"The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age (provided the applicant has the capacity to enter a binding contract); because all or part of the applicant's income derives from any public assistance program; or because the applicant has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act. The Federal agency that administers compliance with this law is the Federal Trade Commission, Equal Credit Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20580.

USDA regulations prohibit discrimination in USDA programs because of your race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability; or because all or part of your income is derived from any public assistance program; or because you have filed a program complaint, participated in any program complaint proceeding, or opposed a prohibited practice.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against for any of the reasons stated above, you may file a complaint with the Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, United States Department of Agriculture, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410."